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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of

HAYASHI et al.

Application Number: 10/577,235

Filed: April 26, 2006

For: SURFACE-TREATMENT METHOD AND EQUIPMENT)

Attorney Docket No. SANK.0008)



Commissioner of Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER

Sir:

The below-identified communications are submitted in the above-captioned application or proceeding:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Document | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement w/Form 1449 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Priority | and references |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Notice of | <input type="checkbox"/> Check for \$ 0.00 |
| Non-Compliant Amendment | |

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication, including fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account Number 08-1480**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher

Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez

Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP

3110 Fairview Park Dr., Suite 1400

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(703) 641-4200

July 12, 2006

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the Examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each foreign patent, or each publication or portion thereof listed or herein identified, is submitted herewith.

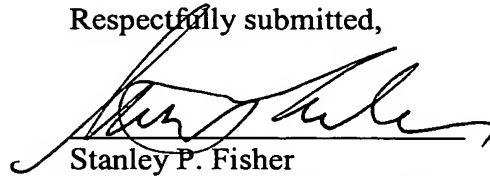
CERTIFICATION

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted within three months of the filing date and prior to the mailing date of the first Office Action of the above-captioned U.S. patent application. Accordingly, no fee is due or payable at this time.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 08-1480.

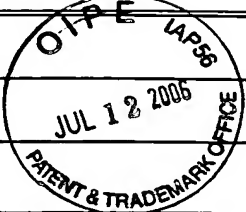
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley P. Fisher', written over a horizontal line.

Stanley P. Fisher
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Juan Carlos A. Marquez
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3110 Fairview Park Drive
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July 12, 2006

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| Form PTO 1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant | ATTY. DOCKET NUMBER SANK.0008 | SERIAL NUMBER 10/577,235 |  |
| | APPLICANT HAYASHI et al. | | |
| | FILING DATE April 26, 2006 | GROUP | |

U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB CLASS | FILING DATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|------|------|-------|--------------|-------------|
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Foreign Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | FILING DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB CLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------|--------------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | | 9-104985* | 7/31/96 | Japan | | | Abstract | X |
| | | 2002-237480 | 7/2/2001 | Japan | | | X | |
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Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED | |
| <i>EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant</i> | | |

PTO1449

*Corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,711,814 listed above